

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

-Lee Holloway -

Chairman of the Board

January 26, 2009 For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager 414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON WISCONSIN SHARES PROGRAM

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement regarding the Wisconsin Shares child care program, as administered by Milwaukee County.

"The Wisconsin Shares program is an important tool that Milwaukee County uses to help parents get to work. We have an obligation to help these parents support their families by ensuring that their children receive safe and affordable child care.

"Serious questions are being raised about accountability, but this week's media coverage incorrectly implies that Milwaukee County has no interest in oversight of these programs. In fact, Milwaukee County has completed audits of the County's obligations in State child care programs. Two reports issued in 1998 highlighted several concerns. More recently, the Department of Audit has been assisting the District Attorney on an ongoing basis in the investigation and documentation of a fraud case approaching \$1 million. In addition, Milwaukee County's 2008 budget included additional accountability resources within the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Several weeks prior to this week's news coverage, I directed the Director of the Department of Audit to initiate an audit of Milwaukee County's responsibilities under the State program. We anticipate launching that audit as staff resources become available during the month of February."

###